



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are here
to worship a remarkable God.

**The love of God welcomes us,
the grace of Christ awaits us,
the joy of the Spirit enfolds us.**

Don't come as the duty-bound,
come as the truly free.
Don't come as petitioners,
come as those who are already heard.
Don't come as interlopers,
come as invited guests.
Don't come as the outsiders,
come as much-wanted children.

**The love of God emboldens us.
The grace of Christ redeems us.
The joy of the Spirit uplifts us.**

Come as the joyful,
come as the eager,
come as the thankful,
come as the recipients of amazing grace.

**The love of God overflows our hearts.
The grace of Christ liberates our spirits,
The joy of the Spirit sings in our minds.**

HYMN #611 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Holy God

**We desire to know you better, and more fully.
We ask you to reveal more of yourself to us,
to take us beyond the confines of familiar habits,
to free us from the restrictions
and distortions of our language,
to expand our understanding of you
so that we can love you whole heartedly,
we can communicate you faithfully,
and we can reflect your image to a world
that needs you.**

Amen.

RESPONSE #612 *We Praise You, O God*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

**Loving God, we confess that despite our best
efforts and intentions, we have failed to
consistently live in ways that bring honor to your
name, and bring blessing to our neighbors.
Through the grace of Jesus Christ and the power
of the Holy Spirit, free us from attitudes and
actions that do not lead to life—for others, and
for ourselves. Strengthen us in love and help us
to delight in doing your will.**

(time for silent prayers and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

—based on Romans 5:8 and Colossians 1:13-14

God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
while we were sinners Christ died for us.

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Therefore, since we have been reconciled through faith, we have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #37 *Let All Things Now Living*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Mark 8:27-33
Colossians 1:15-20

MESSAGE The Cosmic Christ

HYMN #12 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

THANKS AND BLESSINGS FOR MICHELLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory
now and forever. Amen.*

HYMN #542 *God Be with You till We Meet Again*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21

